

Mid-East Prophecy Update – July 21st, 2011

- Every week, since back in 2006, we have set aside a few minutes on Sunday mornings so as to devote some time to studying Bible prophecy.
- The reason that we do this is because the Bible predicts certain specific events that will take place in the last days before the Lord returns.
- We believe that what's happening in the world today is a fulfillment of those Bible Prophecies, and that the rapture could happen at any time.

- We look primarily at events in the Middle East, specifically related to Israel because, as it's been said; "Israel is God's prophetic clock."

- For today's update, I would like to look at Ezekiel's prophecy, perhaps familiar to most, in light of all that is now happening in the Middle-East.

Ezekiel 38:1-8, 13 NIV The word of the LORD came to me: (2) "Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal; prophesy against him (3) and say: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I am against you, O Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal. (4) I will turn you around, put hooks in your jaws and bring you out with your whole army—your horses, your horsemen fully armed, and a great horde with large and small shields, all of them brandishing their swords. (5) Persia, Cush and Put will be with them, all with shields and helmets, (6) also Gomer with all its troops, and Beth Togarmah from the far north with all its troops—the many nations with you. (7) "'Get ready; be prepared, you and all the hordes gathered about you, and take command of them. (8) After many days you will be called to arms. In future years you will invade a land that has recovered from war, whose people were gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate. They had been brought out from the nations, and now all of them live in safety. ... (13) Sheba and Dedan and the merchants of Tarshish and all her villages will say to you, "Have you come to plunder? Have you gathered your hordes to loot, to carry off silver and gold, to take away livestock and goods and to seize much plunder?"

- In the verses we just read, the Prophet Ezekiel lists, by their ancient names, all the nations that are involved in an allied attack against Israel.
- What makes this prophecy so interesting and even exciting, is that all of these nations that are listed, are now postured in the perfect position.
- In addition to this, we're given certain specific details in Ezekiel's prophecy, that would seem to indicate that we're on the cusp of its fulfillment.

- It's for this reason that I think we'd be grossly remiss to not revisit this prophecy, and its implications as it relates to the geopolitical landscape.
- First, we'll see these ancient nations by name, then match them to their geographical areas as we know them today, in an our changing world.
- Let me preface this, by saying; what we're about to do, isn't an easy do. These ancient nations we're vastly different than modern day borders.

ANCIENT NAME	LOCATION	MODERN NATION(S)
Magog	North of the Caucasus Mountains	Russia, Khazakstan
Meshech	Moschian Mountains	Russia (area near Moscow)
Tubal	Eastern section of Black Sea	Georgia, Turkey
Persia (Elam)	East of Tigris / Euphrates rivers, Persian Gulf	Iran
Cush	North / eastern Africa	Ethiopia, Niger, Sudan
Phut	North Africa	Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco
Gomer	Near Rhine and Danube rivers	East Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia - other Slavic nations
Togarmah	Central Asia	Turkey / Armenia
Sheba & Dedan	Arabian Peninsula	Saudi Arabia
Tarshish & young lions	Far western isles/coastlands	Britain and her derivatives (United States, Australia, Canada)

- What makes this prophecy in Ezekiel even more fascinating, is the conspicuous absence, from this list, of several Middle-Eastern countries.
- Notice that there is no mention of Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Jordan, and, of all places, Iraq." Furthermore, the US isn't actually mentioned either.
- I would suggest that what we see happening both in the Middle-East, and here at home in the U.S. is beginning to look a lot like Ezekiel 38-39.

- In the interest of time, I'll have to paint the canvass of prophecy with a broad brush, in order for us to better understand the prophetic picture.
- Let's first address the matter of those nations absent from the prophecy. It's thought that Psalm 83, and Isaiah 17&19 may explain why this is.
- This would imply that these prophecies will find their fulfillment prior to that of Ezekiel 38. If that's the case, we're still left with no United States.

- In all my years of studying Bible Prophecy, I've always held onto the hope that the rapture of the church would explain the absence of the US.
- While that may still be true, it's starting to look like the United States may fall, especially given the current economic predicament we're in now.
- Perhaps you'll indulge me for just a moment as I list 10 attributes, I believe may contribute to, and explain why America is not in prophecy.

1. Abolition of private property in land and application of all rents of land to public purpose. (Housing Industry)
2. A heavy progressive or graduated income tax. (Debt Ceiling Debate)
3. Abolition of all rights of inheritance. (Eminent Domain/Environmental Protection Agency or EPA)
4. Confiscation of the property of all emigrants and rebels. (Internal Revenue Service or IRS)
5. Centralization of credit in the hands of the state, by means of a national bank with state capital and an exclusive monopoly. (Bank "Bail Out's")
6. Centralization of the means of communication and transportation in the hands of the state. (Federal Communication Commission Control/Internet)
7. Extension of factories and instruments of production owned by the state... (American Auto Industry)
8. Equal obligation of all to work. Establishment of Industrial armies, especially for agriculture. (Government Regulation/Farm Subsidies)
9.gradual abolition of distinction between town and country by a more equable distribution of the population... (Bureau of Land Management, etc.)
10. Free education for all children in government schools... (Department of Education/NEA)

- What I just read was from 1848, and it's "The Communist Manifesto" of Karl Marx to bring a socialist dictatorship by means of this political aim.

- By the way, and I'll bring it in for a landing with this; the New York Times is labeling this Norwegian terrorist as a "Christian Fundamentalist."
- Quote; "a right-wing fundamentalist Christian, a gun-loving, highly religious Norwegian obsessed with ...the threat of Muslim immigration."
- What does this have to do with the US and Bible prophecy? While this man is not a Christian, this could lead to the persecution of Christians.

- More specifically, it could lead to the fourth political aim of the Marxism Manifesto, which is the confiscation of property from Christian rebels.

- Here's the take away from all this; "as a true Christian, this should loosen my grip on this world, and propel me to share Christ with this world."